

HOUSE BILL 1288

F2

6lr3103

By: **Delegates P. Young and M. Washington**
Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2016
Assigned to: Appropriations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 16, 2016

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – Tuition Waivers for Foster Care Recipients and**
3 **Unaccompanied Homeless Youth**

4 FOR the purpose of ~~repealing the requirement that certain foster care recipients and~~
5 ~~certain unaccompanied homeless youth must be a certain candidate for certain~~
6 ~~certificate or degree programs in order to receive a certain tuition waiver;~~ defining
7 the term vocational certificate to include completion of a certain course of study by
8 taking credit-bearing courses or noncredit courses for purposes of establishing
9 eligibility of foster care recipients for certain tuition waivers; altering a certain
10 definition; and generally relating to tuition waivers for foster care recipients and
11 unaccompanied homeless youth.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

13 Article – Education

14 Section 15–106.1(a)(1) and (3) and (c)

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

18 Article – Education

19 Section ~~15–106.1(e)~~ 15–106.1(a)(2)

20 Annotated Code of Maryland

21 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

22 BY adding to

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Article – Education
2 Section 15–106.1(a)(6)
3 Annotated Code of Maryland
4 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

5 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
6 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

7 **Article – Education**

8 15–106.1.

9 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

10 (2) (i) “Foster care recipient” means an individual who:

11 1. Was placed in an out-of-home placement by the Maryland
12 Department of Human Resources; and

13 2. A. Resided in an out-of-home placement in the State
14 at the time the individual graduated from high school or successfully completed a general
15 equivalency development examination (GED); [or]

16 B. Resided in an out-of-home placement in the State on the
17 individual’s 13th birthday and was placed into guardianship or adopted out of an
18 out-of-home placement after the individual’s 13th birthday; OR

19 C. **RESIDED IN AN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT IN THE**
20 **STATE FOR AT LEAST 1 YEAR ON OR AFTER THE INDIVIDUAL’S 13TH BIRTHDAY AND**
21 **RETURNED TO LIVE WITH THE INDIVIDUAL’S PARENTS AFTER THE OUT-OF-HOME**
22 **PLACEMENT ENDED.**

23 (ii) “Foster care recipient” includes a younger sibling of an individual
24 described in subparagraph (i) of this paragraph if the younger sibling is concurrently placed
25 into guardianship or adopted out of an out-of-home placement by the same guardianship
26 or adoptive family.

27 (3) “Out-of-home placement” has the meaning stated in § 5–501 of the
28 Family Law Article.

29 (6) **“VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE” MEANS A CERTIFICATE OR LICENSE**
30 **AWARDED BY A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION ON COMPLETION OF A**
31 **COURSE OF STUDY THAT PREPARES AN INDIVIDUAL TO WORK IN A CAREER FIELD BY**
32 **TAKING CREDIT-BEARING COURSES OR NONCREDIT COURSES.**

1 (c) (1) A foster care recipient or an unaccompanied homeless youth is exempt
2 from paying any tuition at a public institution of higher education, regardless of that foster
3 care recipient's or unaccompanied homeless youth's receipt of any scholarship or grant if:

4 (i) The foster care recipient or unaccompanied homeless youth is
5 enrolled at the institution on or before the date that the foster care recipient or
6 unaccompanied homeless youth reaches the age of 25 years; ~~AND~~

7 (ii) ~~The~~ foster care recipient or unaccompanied homeless youth is
8 enrolled as a candidate for a vocational certificate, an associate's degree, or a bachelor's
9 degree; and

10 (iii)~~]~~ The foster care recipient or unaccompanied homeless youth has
11 filed for federal and State financial aid by March 1 each year.

12 (2) If a foster care recipient or an unaccompanied homeless youth receives
13 a scholarship or grant for postsecondary study and is enrolled before the recipient's 25th
14 birthday ~~as a candidate for a vocational certificate, an associate's degree, or bachelor's~~
15 ~~degree]~~ at a public institution of higher education, the scholarship or grant may not be
16 applied to the tuition for the foster care recipient or unaccompanied homeless youth.

17 (3) A foster care recipient or an unaccompanied homeless youth who is
18 exempt from tuition under this section continues to be exempt until the earlier of:

19 (i) 5 years after first enrolling ~~as a candidate for an associate's~~
20 ~~degree or a bachelor's degree]~~ at a public institution of higher education in the State; or

21 (ii) The date that the foster care recipient or unaccompanied
22 homeless youth is awarded a bachelor's degree.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
24 1, 2016.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.